



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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Contact: Angela Blanchette

510.540.3732

Ron Baker

916.324.3142

DTSC Certifies Santa Clara Gateway Site

Berkeley - - The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced certification of the hazardous substances cleanup at the Santa Clara Gateway site in Santa Clara. The certification allows for unrestricted land use and redevelopment of most of the property. The 42 acre site consists of open fields, south of Highway 237, north of the closed All Purpose Landfill, and between Great America Parkway and Lafayette Street.

DTSC's certification means that all environmental clean up activities required by the clean up plan approved in July 2001 are complete. The \$3.8 million cleanup was funded by the City of Santa Clara.

The Santa Clara Gateway site is one of several "brownfields" throughout California that DTSC has cleaned up and certified for reuse. Brownfields are agricultural, industrial, or abandoned properties that are contaminated or thought to be contaminated, and are underutilized due to clean up costs or liability concerns.

"It is vital that the State's brownfields are put to productive use," DTSC Director Ed Lowry said. "Brownfield redevelopment not only helps to enhance the environment, but also provides jobs, supplies new homes, and stimulates economic growth."

Once marshland, Santa Clara Gateway was used in the early 1950s as a charcoal factory and then as a crating facility. Equipment used to support operations at the adjacent All Purpose Landfill was also stored on the Santa Clara Gateway site and included gasoline and diesel fuel storage.

Site investigations in 2001 found elevated levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and petroleum hydrocarbons. PAHs are formed when material such as coal, oil, fuel, or even foods are not completely burned.

During clean up activities, contaminated soils were excavated and either consolidated and capped onsite or disposed of offsite at an appropriately permitted facility. Excavated areas were backfilled with clean soils to meet unrestricted standards.

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Two small portions of the site, comprising about 4 acres, were capped with soil or asphalt to prevent exposure to contaminated soils. The capped areas of the site are deed restricted to prevent unauthorized digging through the caps or inappropriate land uses.

The Irvine Company has secured a 99-year lease with the City of Santa Clara for future development of the property.

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The Department of Toxic Substances Control's mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.